

Appln. of: Schreiber  
Serial No.: 10/733,363  
Filed: December 12, 2003

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-17 and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 15, 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, 13 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Thompson.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Crouch.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouch in view of any of Wojtyczka, Thompson and Porcelli.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson in view of either Porcelli or Crouch.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joubert in view of either Crouch or Thompson.

Applicant traverses all of the above rejections. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, as well as further structural details from the specification. See the present specification at page 7, lines 11-27 and Fig. 4. No new matter has been added to amended claim 1.

As amended, claim 1 requires:

A protective ring for a fan protective casing of a gas turbine engine, comprising a penetration sleeve having an alternation of several, interconnected strata, each comprising a metal band and a polymer-impregnated fiber-weave layer; wherein opposite circumferential ends of each respective metal band circumferentially overlap one another and respective ones of the fiber-weave

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layers extend between the circumferentially overlapped ends of adjacent metal bands.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest such an embodiment. That is, none of the cited references discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, a protective ring ..., comprising a penetration sleeve having an alternation of several, interconnected strata, each comprising a metal band and a polymer-impregnated fiber-weave layer; wherein 1) opposite circumferential ends of each respective metal band circumferentially overlap one another and 2) respective ones of the fiber-weave layers extend between the circumferentially overlapped ends of adjacent metal bands.

The only reference cited by the Examiner as teaching overlapping ends of the metal bands, as previously required in claim 6 and now required in claim 1, is Crouch (paragraph 3 of the Office Action). However, the sole disclosed embodiment of Crouch is directed to a flat sheet of laminated armor. None of the metal sheets is shown or suggested as being curved, having overlapping circumferential ends or having respective ones of fiber-weave layers extending between the circumferentially overlapped ends of adjacent metal bands.

Similarly, the remaining references cited by the Examiner also fail to teach or suggest a protective ring having 1) opposite circumferential ends of each respective metal band circumferentially overlap one another and 2) respective ones of the fiber-weave layers extend between the circumferentially overlapped ends of adjacent metal bands.

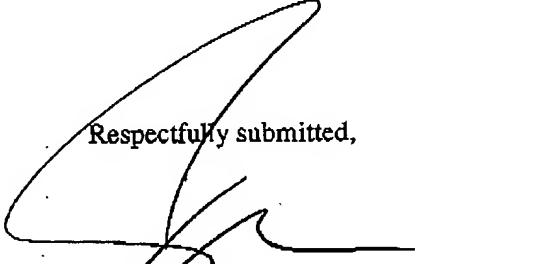
For these reasons, none of the cited references, alone or in any combination, anticipate or render obvious claim 1 as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of the rejections of claim 1 be withdrawn. Since the remaining claims all depend from claim 1, they

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are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein, and it is respectfully requested that the rejections of the remaining claims 2-5, 7-14, 16-17 and 20 be withdrawn as well.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice is respectfully requested. If anything else is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, it is kindly requested that the undersigned be contacted.

Respectfully submitted,



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